

**Saturday Gazette.**  
**Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.**  
 W. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.  
 CHAS. E. DAVIS, Associate Editor.  
 OUR PRINCIPAL OFFICE is next door to the Post Office in Bloomfield.

**The Saturday Gazette.**  
**BLOOMFIELD AND MONTCLAIR.**

An independent weekly journal of LITERATURE, EDUCATION, POLITICS, GENERAL NEWS AND LOCAL INTERESTS.

All public and local questions, including political and social, sanitary and reformatory, educational and industrial topics will be clearly presented and fairly and fairly discussed.

It is intended and expected to make it not only readable and interesting to the general reader, but of special value to citizens of the county and of real importance to every resident of Bloomfield, Montclair and Caldwell.

Nothing will be admitted to its columns that is unworthy of cordial welcome to every family circle.

Settled Clergymen in the county and Public School Teachers in the county will receive the paper gratuitously by sending their address.

It should prove a valuable medium for advertisers. Our weekly circulation extends to every part of Essex county, and considerably elsewhere. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS will be received in Montclair, by E. Madison, in Caldwell, by M. Harrison, in Verona, by W. L. Scott, in Newark, by W. H. Winans, 445 Broad street, and at our office in Bloomfield, or by mail to Wm. F. Lyon, Editor, and Proprietor, Bloomfield, N. J.

**PROPERTY VALUATIONS.**

THEY MUST BE RELATIVELY EQUAL.

In our discussion of this important subject we have studiously avoided all personalities. We have made no reflections upon the Assessors but have several times spoken in terms of confidence and commendation. Our position has been well considered, clearly presented, and logically maintained. Every fact we have stated was based upon knowledge, and we stand ready to prove them.

It is with no little surprise and regret that we notice a communication purporting to be from the Assessor, in which he attempts to weaken the force of our reasoning by citing in general terms from his books, simply a few instances at which the valuations of lands are at an average of \$400 per acre; and he appeals "to an intelligent public to judge if the lands at the above valuations are not fully 40 per cent. of their cash value."

"An intelligent public," including our excellent Assessor himself, will see that this *ex parte* citation does not controvert our position at all. That statement may be true without invalidating our facts or arguments.

We do not wonder that our suggestion of a particular classification of dwellings, for convenience of valuation, should strike many minds unfavorably. It was only designed to draw attention to the need of a *fixed system*, details of which could be modified according to the light and judgment that should be concentrated upon it. That particular plan is of no consequence at all.

Our position may be stated again in few words.

1st. The present assessment valuations of properties are not based upon established or just principles, but are irregular, arbitrary and unfair.

We do not claim originality for this proposition. We only embody in definite form and specific words, what has been known and complained against for several years, and which is now considered past endurance.

2nd. The present method of assessment valuations, virtually discriminates between the rich and the poor, making the small land holder pay a tax, in many instances, twice as great, in proportion, as the large property owner does.

Now, since "the Assessor undertakes to say that his books will show so such thing," we shall certainly be excused, if, for our own justification, we prove from those books and from indubitable figures, that our "premises," as well as our "conclusions," are abundantly supported by them.

We copy from the Bloomfield Assessor's Book for 1878, without mentioning names, as we are only illustrating principles:

1st. A House and Lot of 2 Acres, cash value \$16,000. Assessed at 40 per cent. \$ 6,400. This may be considered a standard.

2nd. A House and 28 Acres; Assessed at \$14,500. Deduct for House and 2 acres, cash value being \$13,750, 40 per cent. on which would be \$ 5,500.

Leaving the 26 acres to be assessed at \$ 9,000. But the cash value of this 26 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$2,000 per acre or \$52,000, 40 per cent. on which would be \$20,800. This, then, ought to be its assessed value, instead of which it is rated at less than half of that sum! or about one-fourth of its cash value!

3rd. A House and 21 acres; assessed at \$11,000. Deduct for House and 2 acres (cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. on which would be) \$ 6,400.

Leaving 19 acres to be assessed at \$ 4,600.

But the cash value of this 19 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$1,000 per acre or \$19,000, 40 per cent. on which would be \$ 7,600. This then ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at a little over one-half that sum! or about one-fourth of its cash value!

4th. A House and 11 1/2 acres; assessed \$12,800. Deduct for house and 2 acres, (cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. of which must be) \$ 6,400.

Leaving 9 1/2 acres to be assessed at \$ 6,400. But the cash value of this 9 1/2 acres is allowed by competent judges to be \$31,500, 40 per cent. on which would be \$12,600. This then ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at less than half that sum! or one-fifth of the cash value!

5th. A House and 44 acres; Assessed \$26,400. Deduct for House and 2 acres (cash value \$16,000, 40 per cent. on which would be) \$ 6,400.

Leaving 42 acres to be assessed at \$20,000. But the cash value of this 42 acres is allowed by competent judges to be at least \$84,000, 40 per cent. on which would be \$33,600. This then ought to be its assessed value; instead of which it is rated at a little over half that sum, or less than one-quarter of its cash value!

Now we have mentioned only five pieces of property, taken by chance, and what do they show?

The first is assessed according to the adopted basis, and would be satisfactory. It is a sample of a large class. The other four are in different parts of the village, and as samples of other classes, do not seem to be assessed on any particular system, certainly not according to the adopted basis of 40 per cent. of the cash value.

The second is appraised at \$20,500 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$11,800 less than its fair proportion in comparison with its poorer neighbors!

The third is appraised at \$7,500 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$3,000 less than its fair proportion with others.

The fourth is appraised at \$16,000 less than its cash value! and is assessed for \$6,400 less than its fair proportion with others!

The fifth is appraised at \$24,000 less than its cash value! and is assessed at \$13,600 less than its fair proportion with others!

We could give many more of the same kind, verifying our proposition that the valuations are not made on any fixed and uniform system, nor the assessments apportioned on just and equitable principles. In the four instances above given the assessed value is underrated to the amount of \$34,800, which at 2 per cent. tax would have yielded \$696, and relieved other citizens to that extent. If this be the result in only four cases what would it amount to in the whole town, of some 1,200 or more tax-payers!

How long is this unjust burden to be borne? This inequality of valuations to be practiced in this enlightened and Christian community!

We know the time has now arrived for the Assessors to make their appraisements. It may be thought that they have no time to make new valuations. They are in duty bound to re-value each property every year, and it is no more trouble to do it on *correct principles*, and by *system*, and on an *equitable basis*, than to make arbitrary, irregular and unfair estimates, as we have shown the past to be in many cases.

It may be said that the Town Committee have the power to *revise* the assessments. We know that, and we shall probably have occasion to speak of it again; it is well that there are some opportunities to correct any defects. But we insist that the duty of the Town Committee does not diminish the obligations of the Assessor to make the first valuations just and fair, and equal as it is possible for one man to estimate them.

No one questions the uprightness of the Bloomfield Assessor, but none are bound to consider his judgment infallible, and if he is determined to continue on in the old-time ruts, discarding the rights of experience and regard to new circumstances, unmoved by the developments of facts and arguments, and by the reasonable complaints of the over-taxed, the people will have reason to conclude that their confidence has been misplaced. We trust, however, that his admitted probity will assert the mastery over any tendency to adhere to unfair estimates because of the venerableness of the usage; and that the coming valuations will prove his capacity to adapt himself to the necessities of the hour.

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—We have watched with deepest interest the progress of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

To our mind the movement gives every evidence of being ordered of God; and it is being blessed by Him. The proceedings of the 1st. General Council of this body, held this month in New York, have evinced a truly Christian Spirit, if we may judge of it by the published reports thereof from day to day. After due consideration in committees, and great freedom of discussion in the Council, they have adopted a revision of the Prayer Book which to us seems a real improvement and eminently suitable and worthy of this Reformed Church.

We regretted to notice in the editorial columns of the New York Times (usually the fiercest and peerless champion of justice, reform and progress) a carping criticism upon some of the most timely and fitting changes effected by this revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

There is manifestly an important work for this Church to do, and we trust they will see to it that they do not "fail of the grace of God." May their candlestick continue on forever to be the foundation of a light that shall radiate far and wide and lead many an erring one into the protecting fold, alarming the guilty, raising the fallen, strengthening the weak, comforting the despondent, arousing the careless, encouraging the reformer and directing all to the Divine Master.

To TEACHERS.—We shall be happy to receive communications for the educational column of our paper from Teachers, Ministers and others. "Experience is the best school master."

We ought to be abundantly supplied with acceptable and useful communications; facts and fancies from the school rooms, conceptions and experiences from the 100 teachers in Essex County who get the GAZETTE weekly. Would be glad sometimes to get a creditable piece from a pupil.

Is there any Dry Good's window in Newark that deserves more attention for its fine and tasty display of rich and varied goods than Marvin Dodd & Co's., 659 Broad Street.

RHEUMATISM.—Freligh's Remedy, which has been advertised in our columns for sometime past, is commended to our faith by respectable gentlemen whom we know, as an excellent remedy for rheumatism. It can doubtless be obtained at our drug stores in Bloomfield and Montclair.

RAIL ROAD FACILITIES.—We have had very little reason to complain of our Rail Road accommodations. The Delaware Lackawanna and Western Company have generally manifested a disposition to meet the reasonable wants of our towns and travelers on the Bloomfield branch. The trains are frequent enough; the hours for starting are, for the most part, satisfactory; the time made, it is believed might be shortened five minutes, without loss to the company and with real advantage to all who use this road. We think it would increase to the benefit of the company. The conductors are courteous and obliging; they understand their business and attend to it, we should say with fidelity. The baggage masters and brakemen have almost invariably won the good opinions of the patrons of the road and deserve commendation.

The Road is kept in good condition and the trains are run with punctuality and safety. To Bloomfielders it is a kind of domestic institution for which they cherish a sort of family affection.

There is one improvement that would add much to the comfort and convenience of many—that is to make the first train down in the morning a through train without any detention at Newark.

Many both in Bloomfield and Montclair are obliged to take that early train (and the number is increasing) who cannot afford to lose ten or fifteen minutes every day at Newark. We would earnestly commend this desire to President Sloan and company and hope they may devise a practical plan to afford this relief at an early day, an accommodation that will be well appreciated.

THE CUNARD STEAMERS have withdrawn from Boston and will run only to New York.

THE MEXICAN CONGRESS have voted an appropriation of \$70,000 to provide for a proper representation of that country at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

A TERRIBLE DISASTER occurred in Mill River Valley, Mass., last Sunday morning. The dam of the Mill River Reservoir suddenly gave way precipitating all its reserve of water down the narrow valley, carrying everything before it, houses, mills, bridges, factories, and resulting in an hour or two, in the destruction of a large amount of property and of more than 300 human lives, and occasioning indescribable destitution and suffering among the survivors.

The Annual Episcopal Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, will be held in Grace Church, Newark, on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week.

We are sorry to be compelled to defer till another week interesting letters already in type from Caldwell and from Italy; also an interesting Educational column.

**HOME MATTERS.**

**BLOOMFIELD.**

WEATHER CHRONICLE.  
 Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre, May 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

A. S. A. M. 60° 59° 51° 52° 54° 48° 49°  
 A. T. N. 60° 63° 58° 70° 50° 63° 63°  
 A. S. P. M. 68° 83° 61° 59° 50° 53° 54°

IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. Geo. W. Smith of Ridgewood Avenue is making a very handsome addition to his residence. It will probably be the finest house on that avenue at least until Mr. Page builds his new house.

A fine improvement is going on on Bloomfield Avenue near Berkeley Ave. in walling, grading and terracing in front of Tichenor's and Beatty's residences.

Mr. Jay L. Adams is introducing gas into the three new houses opposite his residence.

FLORAL.—Directed by the engineering management of our Station Agent, Mr. Somerville, Rausback has supplied that center block and pedestal, back of the M. & E. R. R. depot, with a variety of flowering plants that proves the exposure of all eyes.

TOM COLLINS.—Who is he? Where has he gone? When will he be here again?

HARNESSES.—C. Q. Corby always has an extensive variety on hand. There is probably no better place in the county to get a good outfit in this line. Read his advertisement.

THIEVES.—Another robbery committed this time in Morris neighborhood. Mr. S. J. Potter's carriage house was entered last Sunday night and a splendid robe and fine set of harness taken.

The value of the grab we understand to be over \$200.

Our Police arrangements are beautiful and convenient. They consist in advising every one to "lock the stable door after the horse is stolen." What could be more simple? If this does not remove the discomfort, their sovereign panacea is, "grin and bear it."

At an annual meeting of the stockholders of this company, held May 13, the following named gentlemen were elected directors: Joseph A. Davis, Amzi Dodd, Augustus T. Morris, T. W. Langstroth, Daniel Dodd, A. A. Smalley, Bosch Vanderpool, James M. Lowrey, Eugene Vanderpool, J. J. H. Love, R. M. Henning.

MONTCLAIR.  
 Pursuant to call of Trustees the legal voters of School District No. 8 (Montclair) met on Monday evening, May 13. A large number of the citizens of the district were present. Col. Harris was elected Chairman, and Charles J. Reeves, Secretary. District Clerk presented a statement of the finances from September 1, 1878 to May 1, 1879. Two thousand dollars was voted to be raised by special tax to pay off debt on school-house, and ten thousand dollars was voted to be raised by special tax for the current expenses of the school during the ensuing year.

TOWN COUNCIL.—MONTCLAIR.  
 May 20, 1879.  
 Town Committee met pursuant to adjournment. All members present. Parties in interest on the line of St. Luke's St. heard.

Report of Road Commissioners on the extension of Union Street ratified and adopted.

Petitions received for sidewalks on following streets:  
 1. Fullerton Avenue extension.  
 2. Bloomfield Avenue from 300 feet east of Elm Street to the township line.  
 3. Bloomfield Avenue, west side in front of property of estate of H. H. Lloyd.  
 4. On old road in front of property of Philip Doremus.  
 5. On Eagle rock way 350 feet.

All sidewalk petitions were referred to standing committee on sidewalks.

Public meeting to vote tax for sidewalks called for June 2, 1879.

Contract for printing copies of report of the Road Improvement Committee awarded to E. Madison.

Petition received from property owners to open and work Cliff-side avenue.

Clerk directed to ascertain from the Collector if all the assessments on above avenue have been paid.

Town Collector requested to furnish the committee at the first regular meeting of each month a written statement of all his receipts and disbursements for the preceding month.

Bill of Joseph Carson for repair of roads from April 15 to May 9, 1879.

Ordered paid.

Proposals solicited for grading and working of the extension of Walnut St. and the extension of Gates avenue according to plans and specifications in Engineer's office.

Parties interested in the widening of that portion of Fullerton avenue will be heard on May 27.

OBITUARY.  
 The sudden death of Mr. F. P. Terry has cast a shade of gloom over this community that cannot be dissipated by a passing word, nor yet by studied silence.

On Sunday the 10th inst., Mr. Terry was at church and during the day was well as usual, though a pimple on his face attracted some attention. The next day that indication of the hidden destroyer developed into what the physicians considered Erysipelas, but which was found to be even more venomous—a malignant pustula, affecting the brain and superinducing drowsiness and resulting fatally in a few hours.

Mr. Terry had resided in Montclair only a little over a year but had secured the esteem of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Of modest, unobtrusive manners, of kindly feelings, a generous nature and a benevolent heart, his sympathies were inclined him to respond according to his circumstances by labor, or by suitable bounties to every worthy call of humanity or of Christianity.

His religion did not evaporate in words, he was a very practical Christian. With the beginning of his own family responsibility he consecrated an altar to his God where he daily found a restful and refreshing peace with his household.

The church and society here, the loved wife and the infant pledge of mutual affection, will mourn their severe bereavement, and as the entire community where our young friend was born, and spent his youthful days, and united with the church at the age of fourteen, will be shadowed with sorrow at their own loss, however they may be consoled at his infinite gain.

CARRIAGE MAKING.—Mr. J. D. Mockridge, with a reputation in his business, and a thorough experience that should inspire confidence, has removed his carriage manufactory to Montclair where we hope he will receive his full share of patronage from all the county round. See his advertisement.

CALDWELL.  
 CALDWELL.—Last week Mrs. Daniel Griffiths shot and killed an eagle near her home. It measures, from tip to tip of wings, five feet seven inches.

An Englishman, named William Torrey, formerly in the employ of Dr. Hunter of this village, left his home some three weeks since ostensibly to visit New York, and has not been heard from since. He took with him about four hundred dollars in money and a lot of musical traps, of which he was possessed—also, it is surmised, an evil spirit! His wife is anxious to hear from him. I think Torrey is less than "alf" and "half on the home question."

The Young Ladies Social Union gave another interesting entertainment, on the evening of the 15th inst., at the residence of Judge John McChesney. One more entertainment closes the series for this season.

Mr. A. Beardsley, landlord of the summer hotel here, is doing his level best to provide comfortable quarters for his expected guests. Evidently, Mr. B. knows how to keep a hotel and I predict for him liberal patronage. He deserves it.

There is not much doing here in real estate this Spring. Bloomfield Ave. is not blooming enough just now to invite purchasers to the "Gem of the Hills." Spades are trumps now—Telford will be soon. Then look out for "deals."

Gardens hereabout, notwithstanding the backwardness of the season, are looking remarkably well. They had a very sickly appearance about two weeks ago.

Ice can be had here for fifty cents per hundred weight. We propose to keep cool during the dog days.

Mr. Arthur Walling, the deservedly popular Pharmacist of this village, sent your correspondent a few days ago, a very tempting display of very tempting Ice Cream. Mr. W. has added an Ice-Cream Saloon to his store.

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN."  
 Mr. Editor: The little opposition paper before setting up, as a critic should have some qualifications for the position. Its readers and patrons would rather see an answer to some of the articles that seem to trouble the editorial staff of that widely circulated sheet and call forth such a sort of billingsgate. The subject of Assessment is one that the people are discussing and the large land holders may have expected to find an advocate in the weekly forecast. No doubt the paper has been crowded with a press of other matter and space could not be spared for the ventilation of one of the most important of town affairs. At least the Director might have devoted one of his quarter column Editorials to the subject, and let the people judge whether there are any "dumplings in the soup" that is cooked in that kitchen. However if he has not the brains or ability to prepare something palatable, let him get "Constant Reader" to suggest a few ideas and between the two they may hatch up something that intelligent people will better appreciate than the school boy effusions that now monopolize the Editorial columns. It is unfair to rely upon an Assessor to answer these articles; this gentleman has too much business to attend to, and has only time to repeat what he has already said. Give him a little help, Mr. Director, it is a good subject for discussion; there are good arguments to be advanced on both sides; it will be of great advantage to you also, as no doubt you and "Constant Reader" would learn something that would be useful to you when you get older and your ideas become more matured. Do not insult the refined and intelligent portion of your readers with any more slang; they would like more solid food.

The big land owners are anxiously waiting for some slap to defend them. Who is the proper party to do it? There is some hot shot among the advocates of equal taxation, Mr. Opposition remember now after this notice, the people's eyes are upon you and mighty things are expected at your hand.

COMMUNICATION.  
 For the Saturday Gazette.

BELLEVILLE.  
 The beautiful village as its name implies, is again in a state of commotion. The decision given by the Board of Freeholders rejecting the new members elected under the provisions of the new charter has set all the old elements of discontent again in working order. The excitement will now undoubtedly continue unabated, until the Board shall finally decide whether Belleville, or is not a city. Until such time arrives, the people must wait patiently for further developments of improvements &c. It of course, cannot be expected that the new council will risk the expenditures of any moneys for such purposes, until authorized by the author-

ty of the courts who have these matters in jurisdiction.

It is much to be deplored that this state of things exists. Had the projectors of a city government gone about the business in a proper manner, and not attempted to force their peculiar views up on the people, a different condition of events might have resulted. This act adopted so hastily, has become repulsive to a great portion of the residents and many would be glad to see the senseless piece of folly decided upon adversely by the courts. It is generally conceded that the provisions of the act do not meet the wants of any great number of the inhabitants and consequently if decided to be legal, will meet with enough opposition to eventually throw it overboard.

Now is the time for the people of this town to consider what form of government will be for the best interests of the place as a whole. The city arrangements might answer the views of a small portion; others think something entirely different is wanted; but whatever is decided upon, it would seem to be the part of wisdom to adopt some government that would as far as possible cover the needs of all the township, the country as well as the village.

The Commissioner's act was as faulty as this charter in this respect, and consequently met with opposition that might have been avoided if proper care had been exercised in regard to all the wants of the place. Before the next Legislature meets an act should be prepared that all can see and an effort made to bring some measure of harmony out of the chaos that has kept this place back so long, and in the consideration of such an act enough time should be consumed to deliberate well upon its merits. What is wanted is a form of government, that is simple in its elements, that is like an hundred others, so that it can be compared with the policy adopted in other places, should any hitch occur similar to those that have been experienced. It should be one also not likely to be attended with such enormous and unnecessary expense as this charter would prove to be. And above all, care should be taken by the people to exclude all trickery and sharp practice, either in its adoption or in carrying out its provisions afterwards. The great stumbling block that has stood in the way of the advancement of Belleville has been in the character of men elected to fill the important offices. Men with axes to grind that are looking for chances to carry out some special pet plan of their own, are not the men to help place this town in its proper position. There is no good and sufficient reason why Belleville should not stand on a par with Bloomfield, Montclair and other places that have let her in many respects in the back ground. Let us not deceive ourselves in this matter any longer; there are good men among us, tried and true, who should take the place of those officious ones who are always just going to make an Eden out of this little town, but never quite succeed in doing much of anything. These would-be reformers should be laid on the shelf to ruminate on their folly and not allowed any hand in whatever measures may be finally adopted. What a condition of things they have brought about; we are the laughing stock of all our neighbors. The idea of making a city of Belleville is ridiculous in the extreme, no one that had the real interest of the village at heart would ever have conceived such an idea.

Why have not Bloomfield and Montclair become cities; they are larger than Belleville, and if there was anything to be gained by such action there are certainly as smart folks in these towns as were the famous committee on incorporation who could see the advantages of making cities out of country villages, quite as clearly as these gentlemen.

For the Saturday Gazette.

BELLEVILLE ITEMS.  
 EDITOR NEW HARBORER.

Belleville is trying to organize a fire department; this is a move in the right direction; Bloomfield should follow suit.

Negotiations are pending concerning the purchase of seventeen acres of land for a factory site in Belleville.

The opinion of John W. Taylor concerning the city charter has altered the complexion of things in the would-be city.

The Town Committee have recovered a little of the courage that should have sustained them when an election should have been ordered. It is to be hoped they will have back bone enough to push things when the proper time arrives.

The advocates of the city feel very sore over the action of the Board of Freeholders.

When you go to Brady's to buy your meat, subscribe for the GAZETTE. It is a five paper and circulates widely in New York, Brooklyn and other cities.

James Hughes is the man for surveyor. He cannot be controlled by any clique.

Beautiful building sites for sale in all parts of Belleville. When things are settled they will be put in market.

Mr. James Christie interesting a fine residence for Mr. Hugh Donnelly.

The woods are fast disappearing on the outskirts of Belleville.

The Montclair Rail Road will soon be again in operation. Good luck attend it.

Belleville contains a much larger public hall than any in Bloomfield.

Owing to the unsettled condition of affairs, lots when sold at auction do not bring satisfactory prices.

Subscribe for the GAZETTE. It will be furnished for \$1 until the 1st of January.

Subscriptions taken at Elisha Brady's meat market, where roasting beef, steaks,

lamb, veal, mutton, pork &c. can be bought for less money than any place in town.

Why is the city charter like an old fashioned dutch oven? Answer next week.

Belleville shad are a luxury at this season. Make a note of this Bloomfielders, Samuel Moore has them on his stand.

There are various opinions concerning the taxation question in Belleville. We cannot all think alike upon this subject.

Elisha Osborn has been appointed Assessor by the Town Committee and City Council. Whatever may turn up, his office is safe. His appointment don't suit some of the city folks, however.